

August 30, 2004 Minutes - Legal Services Meeting on WMPR

Attendance: Dave Hildreth; Frank Schultz; Barb Hennings; Cynthia Moore; Mike Degen; Larry Lynch; John Melby; Deb Johnson; Pete Flaherty; Dan Graff; Sue Bangert

Purpose of Meeting was to discuss the Waste Program redesign effort with Legal Services Attorneys and learn what issue they have observed with the program, ideas they may have for us to consider and issues that they have with the redesign process. We followed the agenda outline.

Some observations/discussion:

- The term "industry" in the goal statement is confusing. It seems to be narrow and only focus on the private folks. We discussed that it is broadly defined for anyone involved in managing waste, whether its as a resource or for disposal.
- The problem statement and goals should be modified to include (*notes are incomplete*)
- The landfill siting process has been a great success since it's inception in the 1980's. Should we really tinker with it? The questions are: What is broke? What needs to be fixed? We discussed changing times, resources and knowledge of the industry and us related to managing waste.
- An explanation of what regulatory reform is would help with understanding what we're trying to achieve. We discussed the criteria and the goals as providing an explanation.
- Tension seems to exist between the program's vision of zero waste and the increasing capacity we are seeing with landfill expansions. Lake Superior has a goal of zero discharges of toxics - are there some lessons that we can learn from their efforts.
- Can we find the funding for grant programs for waste minimization? That would help move the 'waste as a resource' part of our vision forward.
- Dan, Pete, and Deb asked to be notified when new documents are put on the redesign web pages.
- Legal needs to be involved when we have proposals for consideration. We agreed that we did not want to wait until we had a final draft. Legal should be involved in early considerations. When we send proposals out for general comment, we should include the attorneys at that time for early comments.